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Louisiana Vocational Education Conference

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Mr. Chairman, Gov. Long, Supt. Jackson,
distinguished guests - members of the Louisiana
Vocational Education Conference
The story is told of a jeweller who entered

his display window one morning to place the trays of
which the ladies would consider his most alluring
his most valuable merchandise. As he did so, he
noticed a man outside the store window closely looking
at his watch and then observing the store clock - then
shaking his head with apparent satisfaction; the next
day at the same time, promptly at 7:55 a.m., the same
man reappeared; this time he looked at the store clock
through the window, shook his head and set his watch;
the jeweller, thereafter, for many successive mornings
in a row - at 7:55 o'clock in the morning noted
practically the same performance. When this went on for
considerable period of time, his curiosity got the
better of him - so he stepped out of his store and
asked the man - "Why is it you are before my store
every morning promptly at 7:55 a.m. setting your watch
by my store clock; I've noticed you each day for weeks
now at exactly the same time." The man said - "Well,
that is easy to explain - I have an important job. You
see I have a job in industry - I work at the Manufactur-
ing Plant that is just four blocks down the street. My

duties include the responsibility for blowing the factory whistle for the change of shifts - it is important that our time at the factory be absolutely accurate. So every morning I come here to synchronize my watch with your official time. You can see how important it is that we be not even a few seconds off."

The jeweller looked at the man and smilingly said - "Why yes - I can understand that - because I too do not want my clock to be off - that's why I set my own clock every day by the whistle at your factory."

Now, this story illustrates a degree of cooperation and synchronization which one rarely sees in human affairs - but it expresses, I hope, that degree of cooperation, mutual trust and understanding which should properly exist between a University dedicated to the interests of the people of a State and an important professional group comprising the administrators, supervisors and teachers of vocational education, dedicated as you are to most important aspects of the same ideal of educational service for which we are all striving.

and/homemaking; it fittingly recognizes that the complexities and variety of programs that can be made effective in vocational education require a pooling of ideas and an exchange of viewpoints, experiences and suggestions together with planning and coordination of desired and attainable objects. It is a recognition also of the vast importance of vocational preparation as one of the primary aims and objectives of any strong and well-balanced system of secondary education. We are all familiar with the fact that the social and economic changes of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries have served to emphasize the need for more adequate vocational training and that need finds its expression and means of realization in the vocational schools and the vocational curricula in the high schools - representing again an explicit recognition of vocational preparation as one of the primary aims of a strong system of education. This aim or objective is being achieved through your important work - you are pointing the way and making the adjustments necessary in a system of education so that the large percentage who are preparing

for vocations as distinguished from preparation for college alone - are assisted in finding and training for useful places in our society.

At this University we take pride in the degree of synchronization we have been able to achieve in assisting in this vastly important development through the University's School of Vocational Education and the teacher-training functions it embodies in *most useful and necessary* ~~this~~ important field. One need only to scan the annual reports of the School and to review its activities in the light of its objectives to visualize the breadth of the University's work in providing employment facilities for the training of vocational teachers and teachers of industrial arts; in developing teaching aids for teachers in service; in providing continuing education for teachers in service through graduate and short courses; maintaining a field contact program; and in assisting the State Department of Education and all agencies working toward the development of an ever stronger program of vocational education meeting the needs of Louisiana.

Therefore, as you assemble for this
Second Annual Louisiana Vocational ^{Education} Conference - which
means so much to the social and economic well-being
of our people, and to its agricultural and in-
dustrial economy, it is a pleasure for me, on behalf
of the University, to extend to you an official
welcome as you visit this - the campus of your
University. The facilities and the personnel of the
University are yours to command. May I, in welcoming
you here, express also the good wishes of the Uni-
versity and its faculty for a successful conference
which will aid us all in being more effective in the
achievement of the common objectives which motivate
this conference.

It is a pleasure to have you here for
what we hope will be a week of work - both pleasant
and profitable to you, to us and for the State of
Louisiana and those whom you and we are striving to
serve.

*Speech before Second
Annual Louisiana conference
June 5, 1950.*